

REMARKS

Claims 21, 24, 26, 30 and 36-49 are now pending and under examination. Claims 40-49 are allowed. Claims 21, 24, 26 and 36-39 stand rejected, and claim 30 is objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. Claims 21, 24, 26, 30 and 36-39 are canceled herein without prejudice, overcoming the outstanding bases for rejection. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 40-49 are now pending.

Each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections and pass this application to issue.

Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more continuation and/or divisional applications claiming benefit of the present application to pursue presently excluded subject matter.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 21, 24, 26 and 36-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Chamberlain et al. (US 2005/0234083) in view of Klaviniskis et al. (US 2003/0147923) and Ryan (US 4,171,353) for reasons of record. Applicants traverse the rejections.

Solely to facilitate issuance of the allowed claims, and without acquiescing to the Examiner's position, claims 21, 24, 26 and 36-39 are canceled herein, rendering the rejections moot. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claim 30 is objected to as depending from a rejected base claim, but is indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants traverse the objection.

Solely to facilitate prosecution, claim 30 is canceled herein. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the claim objection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 223002107200. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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